

*Testimony submitted by Bernard L. Kavalier*

*March 14, 2016*

*Public Hearing – Government Administration and Elections Committee*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for consideration by members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee.

I respectfully request that the Committee amend raised House Bill 5619, which concerns state property, or raised Senate Bill 438, regarding commemoration, or another suitable proposed bill under consideration, to direct the Commissioner of Administrative Services to take the necessary steps to effectuate naming property in Hartford previously purchased by the state, named Connecticut River Plaza by its previous owner, as the **Joseph J. Fauliso State Government Center**, when state agencies move into the buildings, anticipated within the coming year. (Should the state's plans regarding the relocation of state agencies into those buildings not come to fruition, the Commissioner would designate another similar and appropriate property.)

Lieutenant Governor Joseph J. Fauliso, who died nearly two years ago at age 98, holds a number of public service distinctions in Connecticut, and a special place in the memory of colleagues and constituents alike, including many who continue in public service to this day.

To memorialize and commemorate his multiple decades of diligent work on behalf of the people, communities and businesses of Connecticut in such a manner would be a fitting remembrance of his commitment to public service.

Lieut. Gov. Fauliso's career in the state where he was born (in Stonington on February 23, 1916) and raised is notable and exceptional.

He served with distinction in **all three branches of government**: first as a judge of the Hartford Municipal Court and the Connecticut Circuit Court, then as a State Senator representing the First District, where he served seven terms including three as President Pro Tempore, followed by ten years as Lieutenant Governor.

Significantly, **no individual served longer as Connecticut's Lieutenant Governor in the 20th century**. In fact, you would need to go back to 1797 to find a person whose tenure exceeded that of Lieut. Gov. Fauliso.

During his many years in the legislature, where he was first elected in 1966, he became known as the Cicero of the Senate for his captivating oratory. He was a vigorous advocate for working people and earned the respect of his constituents and colleagues. He developed enduring friendships on both sides of the aisle, and held the legislative process in great reverence. He maintained an "open door policy" through his time at the Capitol, placing a priority on responding to the concerns of Connecticut residents.

He succeeded to the office of Lieutenant Governor in 1980 and was elected to that office in 1982 and 1986, running on a ticket led by Governor Bill O'Neill. He was a vocal and visible leader, serving as chair of the Governor's Development Cabinet, Task Force on

Safety in Public Buildings, Missing Persons Coordinating Committee, High Technology Council and Task Force on Racial Harmony.

His unexpected tie-breaking vote to raise Connecticut's drinking age, steady leadership when he stepped in during Governor O'Neill's heart surgery and recuperation, and vocal support for myriad issues that improved the daily lives of Connecticut residents were noteworthy, then and now. A man of deeply-held beliefs, his politics always reflected civility and dignity. His character and decency, and respect for all he encountered regardless of their station in life, are remembered fondly to this day.

Naming a state facility where government employees interact with, and work on behalf of, our fellow Connecticut residents, would be an ongoing affirmation of the best in principled public service. Taking such action this year, 100 years after his birth, would be particularly apt.

Your consideration of amending SB 438 or HB 5619, or another bill before the General Assembly during the 2016 session, would honor a notable legacy and would be greatly appreciated by those he served with, and those he so ardently represented, throughout his life.

Thank you very much for your consideration and action.